Term Report of the

Yukon Council on the Economy and the Environment

(YCEE)

January 2001 - March 2002

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July 19, 2002

Premier Duncan
Government of Yukon
Box 2703
Whitehorse, Yukon
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Dear Premier Duncan:

I am pleased to present the term report for the Yukon Council on the Economy and the Environment covering the period January 2001 to the end of March 2002.

Over this period, the Council experienced a large amount of membership vacancies and changes. While this lack of continuity presented many challenges, the Council has worked on its legislated obligations and embarked on a number of new projects.

With Council now approaching a full complement, we look forward to fulfilling our obligations and providing advice to the Government of Yukon on focusing on sustainable development issues.

Sincerely,

James Grattan
Chair

2001-2002 Council Membership

Name	Constituency	Status
Richard Buchan, Chair	n/a	Resigned January 2002
James Grattan, Chair	n/a	Appointed as Chair February 2002
Darren Leas, Vice-Chair	Council of Yukon First Nations	Resigned May 2001
Ralph Nordling	Member at Large	Member since December 1997 Appointed Vice-Chair December 2001
Roger Alfred	Council of Yukon First Nations	Member since August 2000
	Council of Yukon First Nations	Vacant
James Grattan	Yukon Chamber of Commerce	To February 2002
Ernie Bourassa	Association of Yukon Communities	Resigned January 2002
Linda Casson	Association of Yukon Communities	Appointed February 2002
Louise Bouvier	Yukon Aboriginal Women's Council	Member since November 1993
Natalie Edelson	Yukon Status of Women's Council	Resigned September 2001
Charlotte Hrenchuk	Yukon Status of Women's Council	Appointed December 2001
Bill Mann	Yukon Chamber of Mines	Member since August 2000
Louise Ranger	Yukon Federation of Labour	Resigned February 2001
Malcolm Taggart	Yukon Federation of Labour	Appointed June 2001
Andy Williams	Yukon Conservation Society	Resigned February 2002

Executive Summary

Between January 2001 and March 2002, Council continued to work towards its legislated mandates as well as a number of initiatives that blend the economic, environmental and societal issues present in the Yukon today. In the following pages, you will note the following work:

Periodic Review of the 1987 Economic Strategy – Council continues to slowly move forward with the development of tools that will help the government evaluate the following four key goals of the Economic Strategy:
(1) The Option to Stay in the Yukon,
(2) Control of the Future,
(3) An Acceptable Quality of Life, and
(4) Equality.

Yukon Conservation Strategy (YCS) Revision – March 2002 – Council has provided feedback to the government with respect to the YCS Goals, YCS Objectives, Action Items, Proposed SPI Indicators and the related Yukon Government Policy/Program. Council will officially comment during the public review process expected in the fall of 2002.

Yukon Conservation Strategy Review (1998 – 2001) - Once again, no review was completed. Council is awaiting the completion of the Yukon Conservation Strategy Revision as well as the implementation of the Sustainable Progress Indicators Project prior to determining the best course of action regarding this obligation.

Review of the 1999 State of the Environment Report - In 2001, Council completed a detailed analysis with a final report being tabled in the legislature on May 8, 2001. While Council recognized the large amount of work that went into the report, Council did have a number of significant recommendations regarding the usefulness of the report as a tool to monitor trends from the perspective of sustainable development.

Sustainable Development Indicators Conference – To supplement Council's own work on Sustainable Progress Indicators, a council member attended the 2001 National Roundtable on the Environment and the Economy (NRTEE).

Renewal of the Government of Yukon – Council had an opportunity to submit ideas to the government during the public input process. Council will continue to press the government to develop a Yukon Sustainable Development Strategy that will supercede the existing Conservation and Economic Strategies.

2001-02 ACTIVITIES

Legislated tasks

1. Periodic Review of the 1987 Economic Strategy

During the 2001/02 period, the Council continued to explore ways to meet its obligation to periodically review the Government of Yukon's progress on fulfilling the 1987 Yukon Economic Strategy as detailed in the document "Yukon Economic Strategy Yukon 2000 Building the Future". As in prior years, the Council has found it difficult to measure the Government of the Yukon's success or failure on the Yukon Economic Strategy. This difficulty arises mainly from an inability to measure progress towards the following four key goals of the strategy:

- The Option to Stay in the Yukon
- Control of the Future
- An Acceptable Quality of Life
- Equality

Assuming these 1987 goals continue to be valid in 2002 and beyond, measuring progress towards their successful implementation has proven to be a challenge. To meet this challenge, the 1999 Council initiated the Sustainable Progress Indicator (SPI) project to help develop an effective measuring tool that could be used in fulfilling this obligation. The Council has monitored the Government's progress on the SPI project and has noted the use of indicators in the 2002 – 2003 Operations and Maintenance Budget. This is an encouraging first step. The Council now eagerly awaits the completion of implementation of the overall SPI project and the release of the first report.

2. Yukon Conservation Strategy Revision – March 2002

The Council, as per its mandated tasks, has been involved in the Government of Yukon's revision of the Yukon Conservation Strategy (YCS). Feedback has been provided on the following:

- YCS Goals
- YCS Objectives
- Action Items
- Proposed SPI Indicators
- Related Yukon Government Policy/Program

The Council now awaits the final draft revision and will officially comment during the public review period expected in the fall of 2002.

3. Yukon Conservation Strategy Review (1998 – 2001)

The Council has once again been unsuccessful in evaluating the Government of Yukon's progress on implementing the Yukon Conservation Strategy. As confirmed in recent correspondence with the Department of Environment, this delay is partly due to the Council waiting for the completion of the Yukon Conservation Strategy Revision as well as the implementation of the Sustainable Progress Indicators project. The completion of these projects will allow the Council to use them as evaluation tools.

4. Review of the 1999 State of the Environment Report

The Council hired a local contractor to help prepare a review of the Government of Yukon's 1999 Yukon State of the Environment (SOE) report. The 1999 report was a comprehensive report that aimed to provide early warning and analysis of potential problems for the environment and to allow the public to monitor progress toward the achievement of the objectives of the *Environment Act*. The Council is mandated in the *Environment Act* to review the Government's SOE report and submit a report to the Yukon Legislative Assembly.

The 1999 Yukon State of the Environment Report was tabled in the Yukon Legislature on June 8, 2000. The Council's review of the 1999 SOE report was tabled in the legislature on May 8, 2001. A number of the key items Council commented on were as follows:

- The SOE would be a more useful instrument if it were drafted in a manner that addressed the significance of environmental activities and trends from the perspective of sustainable development.
- The process does not include an adequate "check and balance" mechanism for meaningful reporting. (e.g. the economic aspects of the environment)
- The report fails to establish a historic context for the economic and social elements of the environment.
- The report does not discuss the ongoing challenges of addressing residual liability associated with past environmental and regulatory processes.
- The report fails to adequately profile the continuing importance of infrastructure to the social and economic health of Yukon communities.

Projects

1. YCEE Overview Document

The Council hired a local contractor to compile an overview document of all Council activities and information (1989 – 2001). This document is meant to be a historic review of the achievements of the Council. It features a history of membership on the Council, listings of all Council publications and synopses of all Council minutes. The Council was very pleased with the contractor's work on this resource document and will reference it often in its deliberations.

2. Sustainable Development Indicators Conference

One Council member, Andy Williams, and secretariat Karen Clyde attended a National Roundtable on the Environment and the Economy (NRTEE) conference on Sustainable Development Indicators in Ottawa in May 2001. Their aim was to bring back information on NRTEE's indicator project with a view to seeing how it compares to the Council's Sustainable Progress Indicators project. The conference provided a chance to share knowledge and expertise in sustainable development and in developing matching indicators and provided an update on the three-year project that NRTEE embarked on to develop Sustainable Development indicators for Canada. It was noted that the Yukon's SPI project was more advanced than the national project because it proposes to include social factors.

3. Socio-Economic Development

The Council chair and members met with co-chairs and members of the Yukon Health and Social Services Council to discuss informing both councils on the positive and negative effects of pipeline development. As well, the Council heard from a First Nation community member on the socio-economic impacts of oil and gas development.

4. Royalty Fund

The Council began discussions on a Council member's idea to recommend to the Government of Yukon that a Royalty Fund should be established to maintain the benefits of oil and gas development for future generations. The Council's discussions on this topic will continue.

5. Renewal of the Government of Yukon

The Council submitted its ideas to the Government of Yukon during the public process for the Government's renewal process. Specifically, the Council recommended that the Government of Yukon develop a Yukon Sustainable Development Strategy to replace the Yukon Conservation Strategy and the Yukon Economic Strategy. The Council was disappointed that through the renewal process there was not a stronger commitment from the Government of Yukon on a sustainable development strategy. The Council is, however, pleased to see mention of the strategy in the Department of Environment's

Accountability Plan. The Council will continue to press the Government of Yukon on the importance of this strategy.

6. Website

The Council continually provides information on its activities through its website http://ycee/yk.net . Council minutes and reports are posted on the site regularly. The site includes an e-mail link to the secretariat. The Council e-mail and the website partially fulfills the Council's objective of promoting public awareness and discussion on the importance of sustainable development.

7. Miscellaneous

The council kept themselves informed about topics related to its mandate of encouraging sustainable development. These topics included: status of the proposed Alaska Highway Pipeline, air transportation development, tourism sector development, housing in the Yukon, e-commerce, renewal of the Government of Yukon, the development assessment process, devolution, the changes to the Yukon Act, the Yukon Protected Areas Strategy, land claims negotiations and Parks and Land Certainty Act and Wildlife Act updates. At its winter 2000 meeting in Destruction Bay, the Council also heard about local issues from the Kluane First Nation and happenings in Kluane National Park.

8. Meetings

Between January 2001 and the end of March 2002, the Council had the following regular meetings.

⇒ February 8-10, 2001, Destruction Bay, Yukon

⇒ April 6-7, 2001, Whitehorse, Yukon

⇒ September 28-29, 2001, Whitehorse, Yukon

⇒ March 8-9, 2002, Whitehorse, Yukon

Financial Information

The Government of Yukon provides a maximum budget to the Yukon Council on the Economy and the Environment of $70,000 for each fiscal year of April 1 to March 31. Any unused funds are forfeited.

Yukon Council on the Economy and the Environment
2000 - 2001 Income Statement
April 1, 2000 to March 31, 2001

INCOME			
Government of Yukon			$ 32,698.80
Total Income			**$ 32,698.80**
EXPENSES			
Meeting Expenses			
Honoraria	$ 11,594.00		
In Yukon Travel / Per Diems	$ 6,292.62		
Catering / Rentals	$ 1,913.60		
Accommodation	$ 2,126.00		
Sub Total		$ 21,926.22	
Project Expenses			
Website	$ 1,135.40		
Printing	$ 2,917.76		
Contract - Review of 1999 SOE Report	$ 2,500.00		
Out Of Yukon Travel - Sustainable Dev.	$ 3,962.68		
Program Materials	$ 156.74		
Sponsor - Speaker Series	$ 100.00		
Subtotal		$ 10,772.58	
Total Expenses		**$ 32,698.80**	

Yukon Council on the Economy and the Environment
2000 - 2001 Income Statement

April 1, 2001 to March 31, 2002

INCOME			
Government of Yukon			$ 20,883.00
Total Income			**$ 20,883.00**
EXPENSES			
Meeting Expenses			
Honoraria	$ 8,400.00		
In Yukon Travel / Per Diems	$ 5,589.00		
Catering / Rentals	$ 1,773.00		
Accommodation	$ -		
Sub Total		$ 15,762.00	
Project Expenses			
Website	$ 619.00		
Printing	$ 396.00		
Contract - YCE Historical Compilation	$ 4,000.00		
Out Of Yukon Travel / Per Diems	$0.00		
Program Materials	$ 106.00		
Sponsor	$0.00		
Subtotal		$ 5,121.00	
Total Expenses		**$ 20,883.00**	

Background and Goals of YCEE

YCEE Terms of Reference

The terms of reference of the Yukon Council on the Economy and the Environment are as follows.

1. Act as a forum for economic and environmental issues in the Yukon, reviewing major policy, strategic, legislative, and program initiatives and providing advice to government;

2. Take a leadership role in working with various sectors towards stable, and in the case of the renewable resource sector, sustainable development, particularly through identifying significant opportunities for advancing *Economic Development Activities* that are environmentally sound;

3. Function as the central advisory group on the Yukon Economic Strategy and monitor progress on the implementation of the actions in the strategy and evaluate their success in guiding environmentally sound economic development and diversification in the Yukon;

4. Function as a central advisory group on the Yukon Conservation Strategy and monitor progress on the implementation of actions outlined in the strategy and evaluate their success in guiding sustainable development of the renewable resource sector and environmentally sound and stable economic development of the non-renewable resource sector in the Yukon;

5. Encourage the development by industry, government, labour and aboriginal and non-governmental organizations of projects that demonstrate environmentally sound economic development;

6. At the call of the responsible ministers, arrange public symposia on major economic and environmental issues;

7. Promote, in cooperation with the Government of the Yukon, public awareness and understanding of the linkages between the environment and economy and the importance of environment-economy integration and sustainable development;

8. Recommend research that may, as appropriate, be funded by government to further understanding of the Yukon's economy and environment and environment-economy linkages; and

9. Review and comment on any reports that address the state of the Yukon's economy, environment and resources.

YCEE Legislation

Following is the excerpt from the Environment Act that sets out YCEE's role.

Environment Act (s. 41)

41.(1) The purpose of the Council is to encourage sustainable development in the Yukon.

(2) Without restricting the generality of subsection (1), the Council may:

a) undertake and encourage public discussion of the economy and the environment and their inter-relationship;

b) review the policies of the Government of the Yukon and evaluate their implementation in relation to the objectives of this Act;

c) conduct research on the economy and the environment; and

d) promote public awareness of the importance of sustainable development.

Mandated Council responsibilities under the *Environment Act* include:

- an annual report to the Legislative Assembly detailing its activities and expenditures;
- an annual review of the performance of the Yukon Government in the implementation of the Yukon Conservation Strategy and reporting its findings to the Legislative Assembly;
- a report of its review of the triennial Yukon State of the Environment Report to the Legislative Assembly; and
- review, reporting, and recommendations regarding complaints submitted under s.22 of the *Environment Act*.

Following is the excerpt from the Economic Development Act with the relevant sections applicable to YCEE.

Economic Development Act (s. 10(1))

This act outlines additional functions for the Council:

a) review policy, strategic, legislative and program initiatives and provide advice about them to Cabinet;

b) monitor progress on the implementation of the Yukon Economic Strategy;

c) encourage environmentally sound economic development by industry, government, labour, and aboriginal and non-governmental organizations;

d) at the call of the Minister, arrange public symposiums on major economic issues;

e) promote public awareness and understanding of the links between the environment and the economy, and the importance of integrating economic and environmental policies and sustainable development;

f) recommend research on the economy or links between the economy and the environment;

g) carry out or supervise projects assigned by the Commissioner in Executive Council;

h) review and comment on any reports that address the state of the Yukon economy.

Yukon Council on the Economy and the Environment
Workplan and Timelines

#	Workplan Item	YCEE Meeting Date			
		February, 2001	***April, 2001***	***September, 2001***	***March, 2002***
1	Yukon Conservation Strategy Annual Reviews	Decision to proceed with consultant on joint project to review YCS and Yukon Economic Strategy using Sustainable Progress Indicators	Review of request for proposal for review of YCS review and discussion. Decision to seek guidance.	Discussion	Decision to request data to begin evaluation
2	Yukon Conservation Strategy Revision				Review of draft revision and provision of comments
3	Yukon Economic Strategy Review	Decision to proceed with consultant on joint project to review YCS and Yukon Economic Strategy using Sustainable Progress Indicators	Discussion		
4	YCEE Annual Report	Review of draft 99/00 term report			
5	Socio-Economic Development		Discussion	Discussion	Presentation

#	Workplan Item	YCEE Meeting Date			
		February, 2001	*April, 2001*	*September, 2001*	*March, 2002*
6	Sustainable Progress Indicators			Progress report	Progress report
7	Review of 1999 State of the Environment Report	Review of draft YCEE report on 1999 SOE report			
8	YCEE Overview Document	Decision to initiate this project	Review of request for proposal	Review and acceptance of finished product	
9	Sustainable Development Indicators Conference		Update and report on conference	Review of additional conference report	
10	Royalty Fund				Initiation of project to prepare for advising YTG
11	Renewal			Presentation and preparation of letter to submit to public consultation	
12	Alaska Highway Pipeline	Presentation			
13	Development Assessment Process			Presentation	
14	Local issues	Presentations from Kluane National Park			

#	Workplan Item	YCEE Meeting Date			
		February, 2001	*April, 2001*	*September, 2001*	*March, 2002*
		and Kluane First Nation representatives.			
15	Devolution/Yukon Act			Presentation	
16	Land Claims			Presentation	
17	Yukon Protected Areas Strategy			Presentation	
18	Yukon Parks and Land Certainty Act			Presentation	
19	Wildlife Act			Presentation	

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